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STAR BRAND
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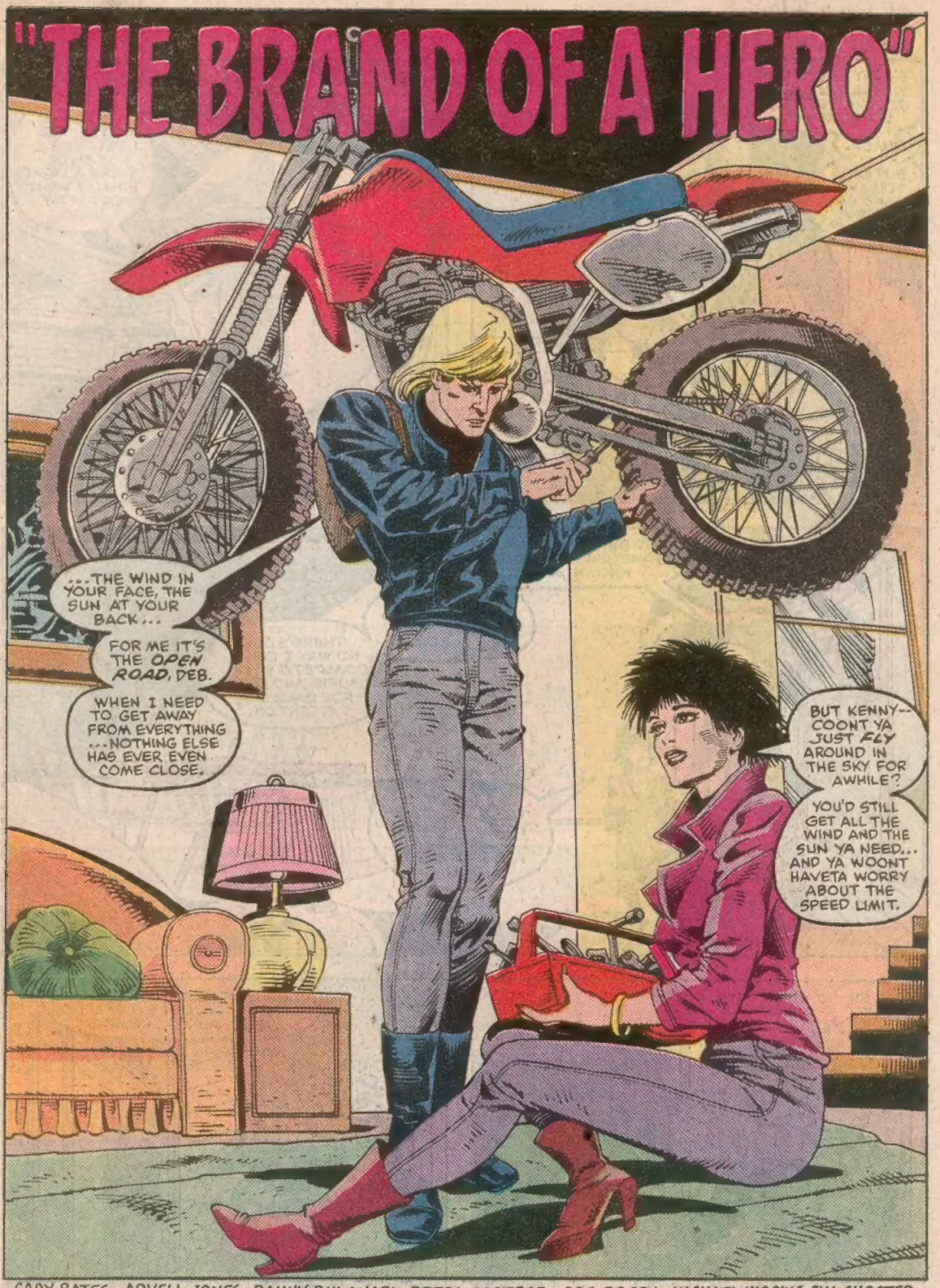
"THE BRAND OF A HERO"
...THE WIND IN YOUR FACE, THE SUN AT YOUR BACK...
FOR ME IT'S THE OPEN ROAD, DEB.
WHEN I NEED TO GET AWAY FROM EVERYTHING ...NOTHING ELSE HAS EVER EVEN COME CLOSE.
BUT KENNY-- COONT YA JUST FLY AROUND IN THE SKY FOR AWHILE?
YOU'D STILL GET ALL THE WIND AND THE SUN YA NEED... AND YA WOONT HAVETA WORRY ABOUT THE SPEED LIMIT.

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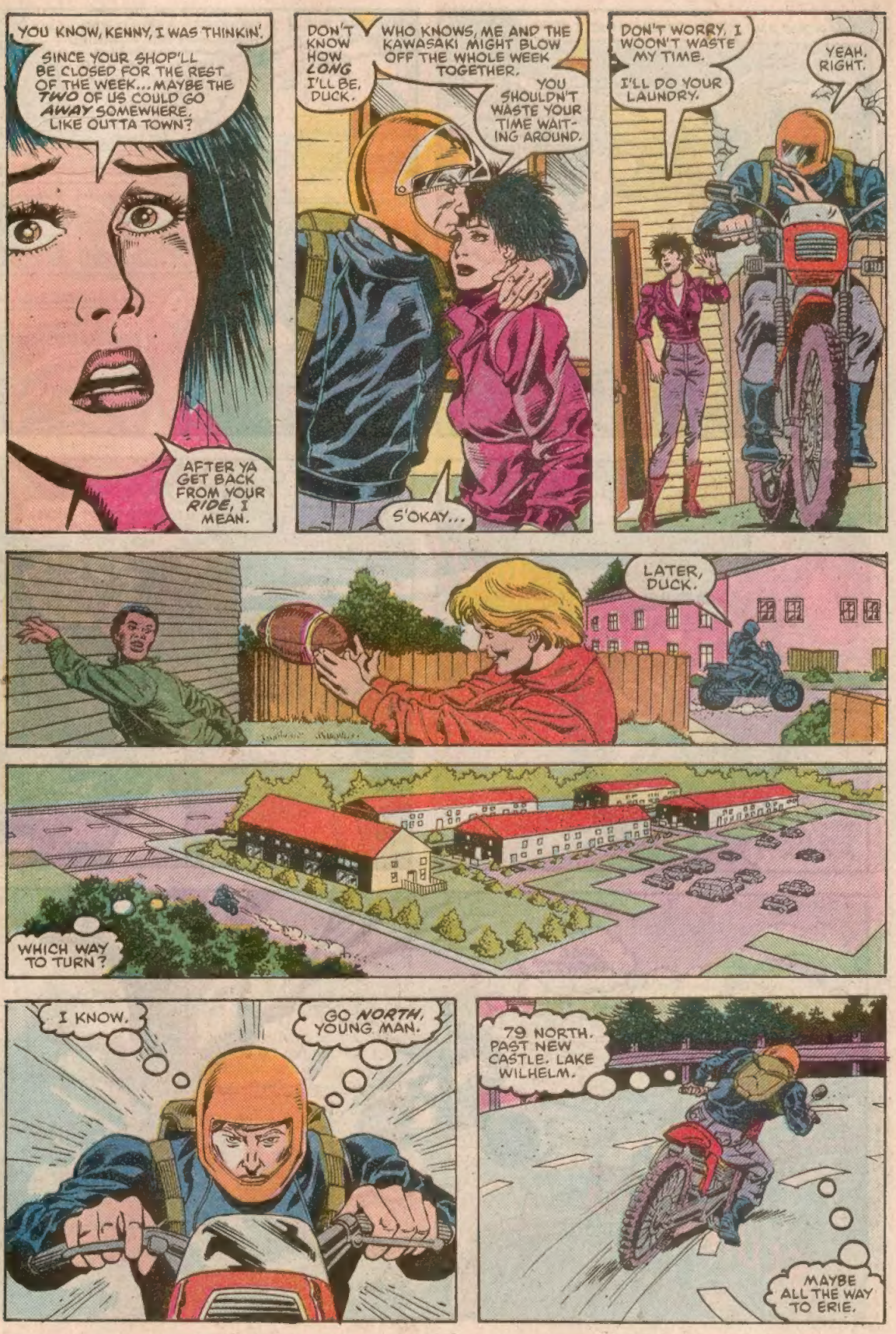
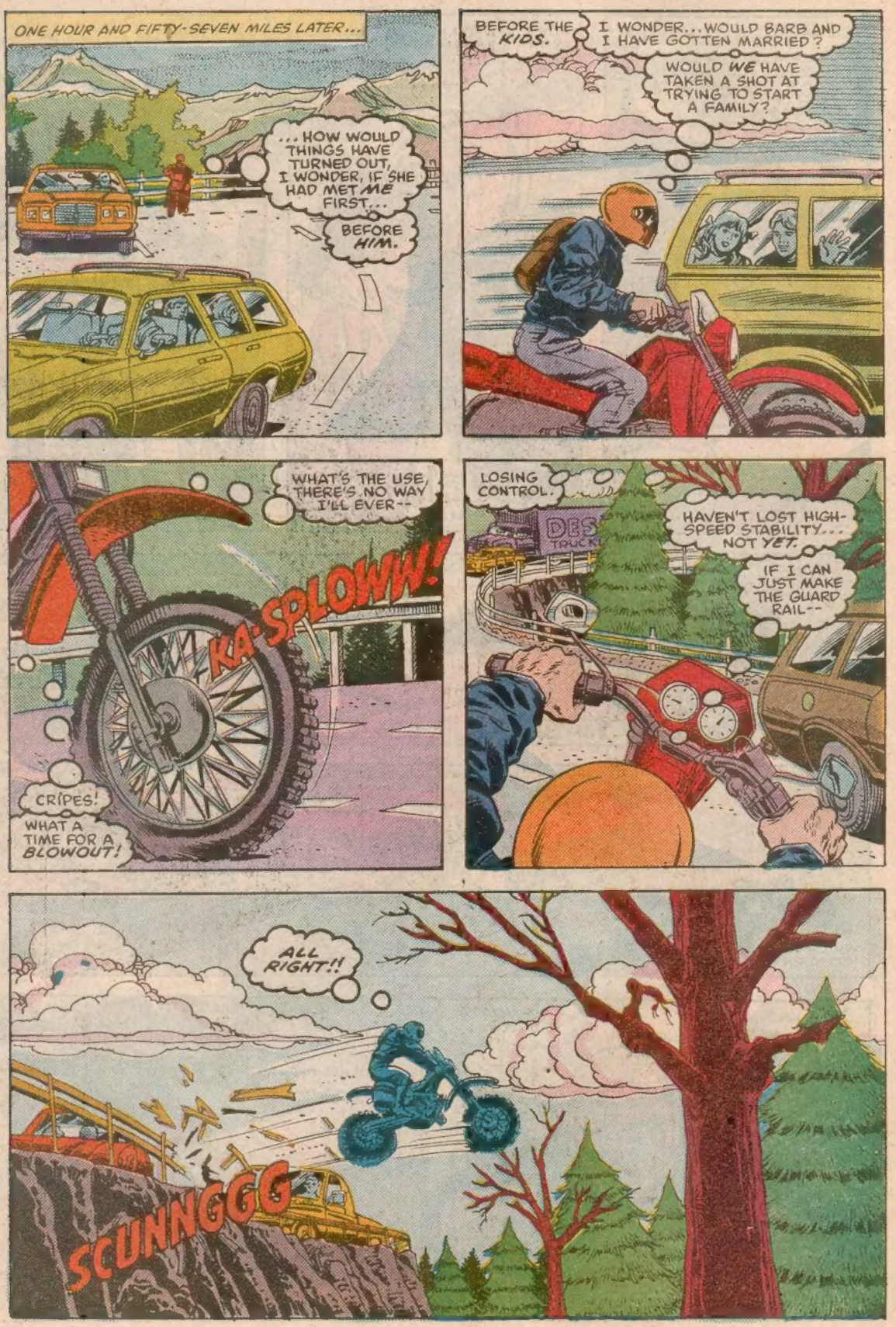
STAR BRAND ™ Vol. 1, No. 8, July, 1987. Published by MARVEL COMICS. A NEW WORLD PICTURES COMPANY, James E. Galton, President; Stan Lee, Publisher; Michael Hobson, Group Vice-President; Mel Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. **Application to mail at second class postage rates is pending at New York, NY and at additional mailing offices.** Published bi-monthly. Copyright © 1987 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price 75¢ per copy in the U.S. and 95¢ in Canada. Subscription rate $9.00 for 12 issues; Canada and foreign $11.00 Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended and any similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. STAR BRAND (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of the MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO STAR BRAND, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016.**

Toker The Kid: Scanner

S'OKAY IF YOU DON'T WANNA TELL ME WHAT'S GOTCHA FEELIN' SO DOWN, KENNY...
QUACK.
BUT DID YOU AND BARB HAVE A FIGHT OR WHAT?
NOT A FIGHT, EXACTLY.
IT'S HER KIDS, DUCK. LATELY THEY'VE BEEN DRIVING ME UP A WALL.
I DUNNO, MAYBE THE LAST TIME I WAS OVER THERE A LIGHT FINALLY WENT OFF IN MY HEAD.
MAYBE I FINALLY FIGURED OUT SOMETHING I SHOULD'VE KNOWN ALL ALONG--
NOBODY COMES BETWEEN A MOTHER AND HER CHILDREN.
THERE'S JUST NO WAY I CAN COMPETE WITH LAURIE AND BOBBY FOR BARB'S ATTENTION.
YOU CAN'T TALK ABOUT ME THAT WAY, KENNY. I ALWAYS PAY ATTENTION TO YOU.
YOU'RE RIGHT, DUCK.
I CAN'T TALK ABOUT YOU THAT WAY.
AND I EVEN DO YOUR LAUNDRY ON THE SIDE. DOES BARB DO YOUR LAUNDRY, KENNY?
NOPE.


YOU KNOW, KENNY, I WAS THINKIN'.
SINCE YOUR SHOP'LL BE CLOSED FOR THE REST OF THE WEEK... MAYBE THE TWO OF US COULD GO AWAY SOMEWHERE, LIKE OUTTA TOWN?
AFTER YA GET BACK FROM YOUR RIDE, I MEAN.
DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I'LL BE, DUCK.
WHO KNOWS, ME AND THE KAWASAKI MIGHT BLOW OFF THE WHOLE WEEK TOGETHER.
YOU SHOULDN'T WASTE YOUR TIME WAITING AROUND.
S'OKAY...
DON'T WORRY, I WOON'T WASTE MY TIME.
I'LL DO YOUR LAUNDRY.
YEAH, RIGHT.
LATER, DUCK.
WHICH WAY TO TURN?
I KNOW.
GO NORTH, YOUNG MAN.
79 NORTH. PAST NEW CASTLE. LAKE WILHELM.
MAYBE ALL THE WAY TO ERIE.


ONE HOUR AND FIFTY-SEVEN MILES LATER...
...HOW WOULD THINGS HAVE TURNED OUT, I WONDER, IF SHE HAD MET ME FIRST...
BEFORE HIM.
BEFORE THE KIDS.
I WONDER...WOULD BARB AND I HAVE GOTTEN MARRIED?
WOULD WE HAVE TAKEN A SHOT AT TRYING TO START A FAMILY?
WHAT'S THE USE, THERE'S NO WAY I'LL EVER--
KA-SPLOWW!
CRIPES! WHAT A TIME FOR A BLOWOUT!
LOSING CONTROL.
HAVEN'T LOST HIGH-SPEED STABILITY... NOT YET.
IF I CAN JUST MAKE THE GUARD RAIL--
ALL RIGHT!!
SCUNNGGG

NOW WHAT?
ODDS ARE, MORE THAN ONE PASSING DRIVING IS WATCHING FROM THE HIGHWAY.
WATCHING ME TAKE A FLYING HEADER STRAIGHT TOWARD THOSE TREES!
EVEN SO--
THERE'S NO WAY I'M GONNA TRASH MY TWIN-CAMS IN A HEAD-ON COLLISION WITH A PINE TREE--
--NOT AS LONG AS I HAVE THE STAR BRAND--
--AND THE POWER TO DO THIS!
SHOOT!
DIDN'T SEE THAT BRANCH IN TIME TO AVOID IT.
DEEP ENOUGH INTO THESE WOODS NOW--DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANYONE SEEING MY FLYING ROUTINE FROM THE HIGHWAY.
I'LL SET DOWN IN THAT CLEARING UP AHEAD.

EASY DOES IT ON THE LANDING... THERE WE GO.
GEEZ.
THE BLOWOUT WASN'T BAD ENOUGH... I HAD TO FIND A WAY TO MANGLE THE WHOLE--
HI.
HUH?
UH... HI!
I GUESS YOU FOUND OUT THESE WOODS AREN'T MUCH GOOD FOR BIKE-RIDING, HUH.
YOUR WHEEL GOT CHEWED-UP PRETTY GOOD.
JUST WHAT I NEED NOW--A BOY SCOUT.
I SUPPOSE THINGS COULD BE WORSE.
IF THIS KID HAD SHOWED UP A FEW SECONDS EARLIER-- I'D HAVE TO COME UP WITH AN EXPLANATION FOR HOW A BIKE CAN FLY.
I'M TAD SELBY.
THE NAME'S KEN. KEN CONNELL.
SO... UH... WHAT DOES A KID LIKE YOU DO WAY OUT HERE ANYWAY?
MY FOLKS AND I LIVE OUT HERE-- ABOUT A HALF-MILE THAT WAY.
MY DAD'S REAL GOOD WHEN IT COMES TO FIXING OUR TRACTOR... AND I KNOW HE'S GOT THE TOOLS TO FIX THAT WHEEL OF YOURS.
REAL NICE OF YOU TO OFFER, KID.
NO BIG THING. YOU FROM AROUND HERE?
NOPE. PITTSBURGH...

AUTO RECONDITIONING, EH? YOU MAKE GOOD MONEY AT THAT, DO YOU?

GOOD ENOUGH ... FOR NOW. I'M KIND OF... UNDECIDED ABOUT MY LONG-TERM FUTURE.
SEEMS TO BE A LOT OF THAT GOING AROUND THESE DAYS, KEN. 'SPECIALLY WITH YOU BABY BOOMERS.
AIN'T IT THE TRUTH.

TAD WASN'T KIDDING ABOUT YOU, MR. SELBY. YOU KNOW YOUR WAY AROUND BIKES.
HAD A LOT OF PRACTICE FIXING THAT DIRT-BIKE ON THE WALL OVER THERE.

TAD USED TO RIDE IT ALL THE TIME... BACK BEFORE HE CAME DOWN WITH--
HEY KEN--

--WHADYA SAY YOU COME OUTSIDE AND PITCH' ME A FEW?

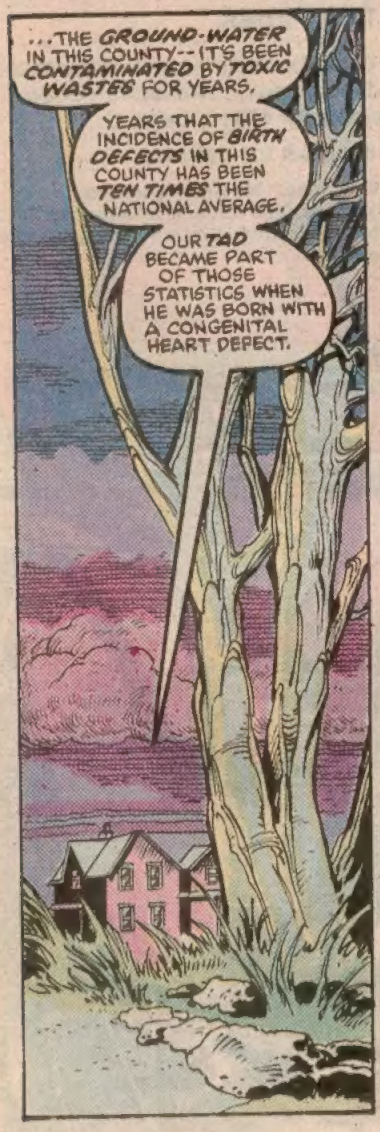
G'ON, KEN, I CAN FINISH UP HERE.
BUT WE MEANT WHAT WE SAID ABOUT SUPPER TONIGHT-- AND THAT BOY OF MINE DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER.
THAT I CAN BELIEVE.

LOW AND INSIDE-- JUST THE WAY I LIKE 'EM!
KRAKK!

NICE!
AN INCH HIGHER AND YOU'D BE OUT OF THE BALL PARK!

TAD? YOU OKAY?
PUFF! I-IT'S NOTHING.
I JUST NEED TO LIE DOWN FOR AWHILE, THAT'S ALL.

THAT'S A GOOD IDEA, SON. MAYBE YOU OUGHTA TAKE A NAP.
YOUR MOTHER WILL KEEP YOUR SUPPER WARM TILL YOU'RE FEELING BETTER.


...THE GROUND-WATER IN THIS COUNTY-- IT'S BEEN CONTAMINATED BY TOXIC WASTES FOR YEARS.
YEARS THAT THE INCIDENCE OF BIRTH DEFECTS IN THIS COUNTY HAS BEEN TEN TIMES THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.
OUR TAD BECAME PART OF THOSE STATISTICS WHEN HE WAS BORN WITH A CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT.

THE DOCTORS SAY IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MUCH OR HOW LITTLE HE EXERTS HIMSELF--
--ONE DAY HIS HEART WILL JUST GIVE OUT. THERE WON'T BE ANY WARNING.
AND IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF AXCO.
AXCO?

THE COMPANY THAT OWNS THE FACTORY THAT'S BEEN POLLUTING THE COUNTY.
AWHILE BACK ALL THE STRICKEN FAMILIES IN THE AREA BANDED TOGETHER TO MOUNT A CLASS-ACTION SUIT.

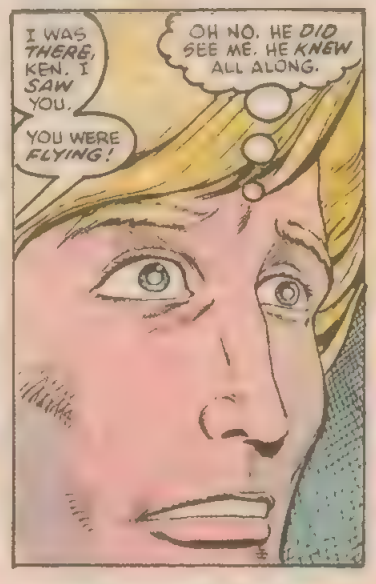
LET ME GUESS--
AXCO'S LAWYERS HAVE SEEN TO IT THAT THE CASE IS HOPELESSLY TIED UP IN LEGAL RED TAPE.

IT'S BEEN DRAGGING ON THROUGH THE COURTS FOR FIVE YEARS NOW, KEN... AND THERE'S STILL NO END IN SIGHT.

EVERY TIME WE THINK WE'VE *GOT* THEM... AN AXCO LAWYER ALWAYS MANAGES TO FIND ANOTHER LEGAL LOOPHOLE TO *STALL* THE OUTCOME OF THE CASE.
MEANWHILE, THE *SPECIALISTS* WE HIRED TELL US THE COUNTY WATER SUPPLY WAS CONTAMINATED BY *DEFECTIVE CANISTERS*--
CANISTERS IN THAT *FILL* THAT HAVE BEEN SEEPING TOXIC WASTES INTO OUR *GROUND WATER* FOR YEARS.
TEN OTHER CHILDREN IN THE COUNTY HAVE ALREADY SUCCUMBED TO WHAT THEY BELIEVE TO BE TOXIC-RELATED ILLNESSES.
BUT WHAT ABOUT *TAD?* THERE'S GOT TO BE AN *OPERATION!* SOME NEW *TREATMENT?*
WE'VE BEEN *THROUGH* ALL THAT WITH THE DOCTORS, KEN. TAD'S CONDITION IS *INOPERABLE*. WE COULD *LOSE* HIM ANY DAY NOW.
WE JUST GIVE THANKS FOR EACH NEW DAY HE'S STILL WITH US.
WE SHOULDN'T BURDEN THIS YOUNG MAN WITH *OUR* TROUBLES, ETHAN. I'M SURE KEN HAS PLENTY OF HIS *OWN* PROBLEMS.
N-NO... DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
...SO WE'LL LOOK FOR YOU NEXT MONDAY, TOBY. SARAH AND I REALLY DO APPRECIATE THE OFFER.
SAME TO YOU. AND GIVE OUR LOVE TO YOUR MOTHER.
THAT'S A LOAD OFF.
SARAH'S 19 YEAR OLD *NEPHEW* HAS OFFERED TO COME UP FROM VIRGINIA TO SPEND HIS SPRING BREAK HELPING US OUT ON THE FARM.
MONDAY. THAT'S STILL FOUR DAYS AWAY
MAKE A DEAL WITH YOU, MR. SELBY.
YOU KEEP *FEEDING* ME AS WELL AS YOU DID TONIGHT...
...AND I'LL HANG ON A FEW MORE DAYS TO HELP OUT AROUND THE FARM TILL YOUR NEPHEW GETS HERE.
BOY HOWDY! *TAD'LL* BE TICKLED PINK.
GOD BLESS YOU, KEN CONNELL.

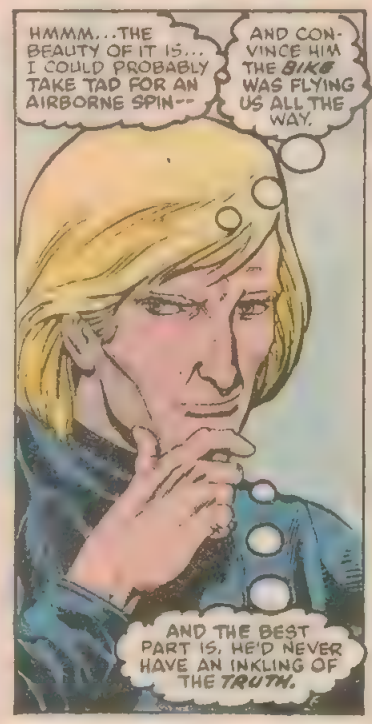
...SO I HEAR YOU USED TO BE A STAR IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD DIRT-BIKE CIRCUIT.
YEAH. I USED TO THINK I WAS PRETTY DARN GOOD, TOO.
BUT THAT WAS BEFORE THAT DAY IN THE WOODS WHEN I SAW YOU IN ACTION.

ME? NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT ME ON A BIKE.
HECK, ANYBODY COULD WRECK A FEW SPOKES.
NOT FLYING 30 FEET OFF THE GROUND, THEY COULDN'T!


I WAS THERE, KEN. I SAW YOU.
YOU WERE FLYING!
OH NO. HE DID SEE ME. HE KNEW ALL ALONG.

DON'T WORRY, I HAVEN'T TOLD ANYBODY... AND I WON'T, PROMISE!
BUT COULD YOU SHOW ME, KEN?
SHOW ME HOW YOUR FLYING BIKE WORKS?
JUST ONCE?

PRICELESS. THE BIKE.
TAD THINKS IT'S MY BIKE THAT DOES THE FLYING.
MAKES SENSE, I GUESS -- AT LEAST A LITTLE MORE SENSE THAN A MAN WHO CAN FLY.


HMMM...THE BEAUTY OF IT IS... I COULD PROBABLY TAKE TAD FOR AN AIRBORNE SPIN--
AND CONVINCE HIM THE BIKE WAS FLYING US ALL THE WAY.
AND THE BEST PART IS, HE'D NEVER HAVE AN INKLING OF THE TRUTH.

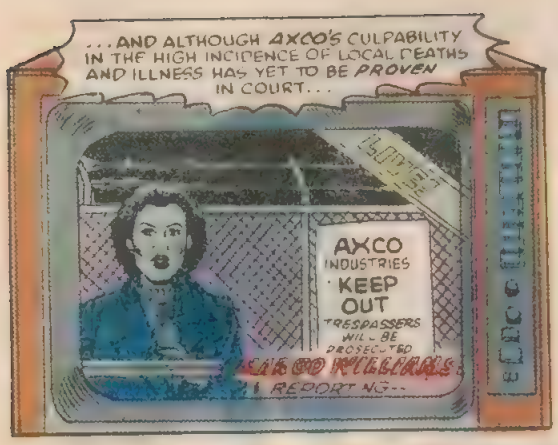
OH, GREAT.
THE POOR KID PROBABLY WON'T LIVE TO SEE HIS NEXT BIRTHDAY... AND YOU'RE PATTING YOURSELF ON THE BACK FOR COMING UP WITH A WAY TO PULL THE WOOL OVER HIS EYES!
JUST GREAT, CONNELL.

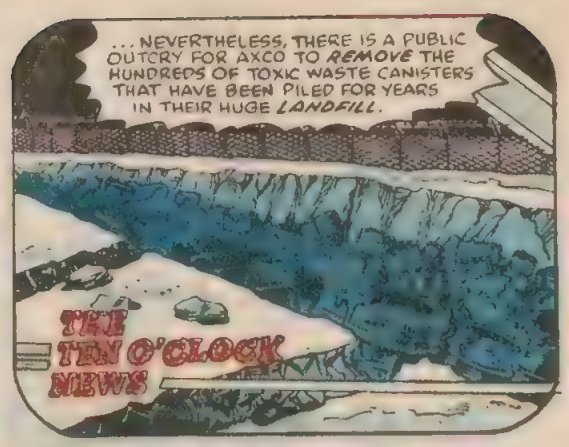
SO WHADYA SAY, KEN? WILL YOU TAKE ME UP ON THE BIKE?
YOU GOT IT, KID. BUT FIRST-- WE PULL THE WOOL OVER YOUR EYES!
HEY! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
FOOSH!
EYE-HOLES, MY MAN... SO WE CAN BOTH PULL THE WOOL OVER OUR EYES... LIKE THIS!
I GET IT! LIKE A MASK!
NOW CAN WE TAKE OFF?
NOW WE TAKE OFF!
OH, WOW!
W-WE'RE T-TAKING OFF, ALL RIGHT--
--BUT WHO NEEDS THE BIKE??
EX-CELLENT!
I THOUGHT YOU'D APPROVE!
THIS HAS EVERYTHING I EVER SAW AT EPCOT CENTER BEAT ALL TO HECK!
CHECK OUT, MR. JENSEN DOWN THERE-- HIS TRACTOR LOOKS NO BIGGER THAN A TOY!

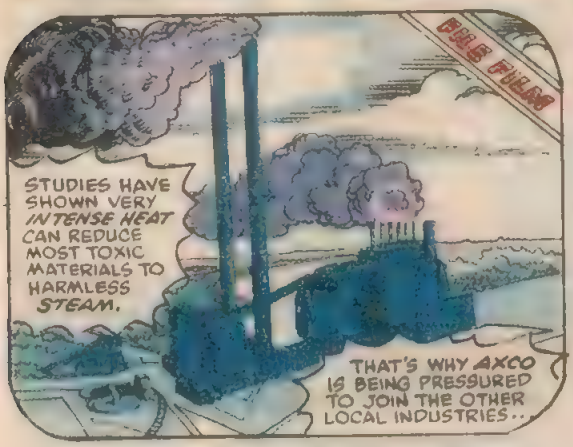
THIS IS OUTTA SIGHT, KEN... BUT CAN WE MAKE SOME SMOKE UP HERE?
YOU WANT TO SEE SOME SPEED, IS THAT IT?
OH WOW!
KEN, YOU ARE--
--FAN-
-TAS-
-TIC!
YOU REALLY MEAN THAT...OR ARE YOU JUST TRYING TO GET ON MY GOOD SIDE?
UHHHHH...
KEN... BETTER LAND-- AND FAST!
I THINK I'M GONNA BE SIIIIICK...
A MOMENT LATER...
FEEL BETTER NOW?
LOADS.
HEY, YOU LIFT THAT BUMPER LIKE IT DOESN'T WEIGH A THING!
NEXT YOU'RE GONNA TELL ME YOU CAN BEND IT IN HALF, RIGHT?
BENDING A BUMPER, THAT'S NO BIG THING.
BUT COMPRESSING IT TO THE WIDTH OF A HAM SANDWICH--
NOW THAT TAKES SOME HEAVY MUSCLE ACTION!
AWESOME!
THE MAN IS NOTHING SHORT OF AWESOME!
CLAP-
CLAP-
CLAP

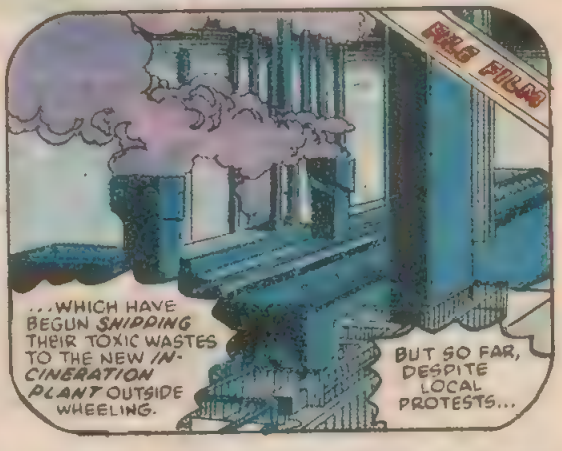
YOU CAN FLY FAST--FASTER THAN A CRUISE MISSILE. I BET! YOU'RE STRONG--YOU CAN CRUSH STEEL IN YOUR BARE HANDS!
DO YOU KNOW...DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE, KEN CONNELL?
I'M JUST A GUY WHO WORKS IN AN AUTO-SHOP, KID.
BUT AWHILE BACK, YOU SEE--
I GOT STUCK WITH POWER I DIDN'T ASK FOR--
POWER FORCED ON ME BY AN OLD MAN FROM OUTER SPACE--
POWER THAT EMANATES FROM RIGHT HERE--
OH WOW! WHAT IS THAT?
IT'S A STAR BRAND!
IT'S THE SOURCE OF ALL MY--
UH OH.
ON WITH YOUR MASK --QUICK!
WHAT'S UP?
WE ARE?
HOW COME YOU'RE STASHING ME UP HERE?
WHY DO YOU THINK, KID?
SOMEBODY HAS TO BE BEHIND THE WHEEL OF OUR GETAWAY CAR!

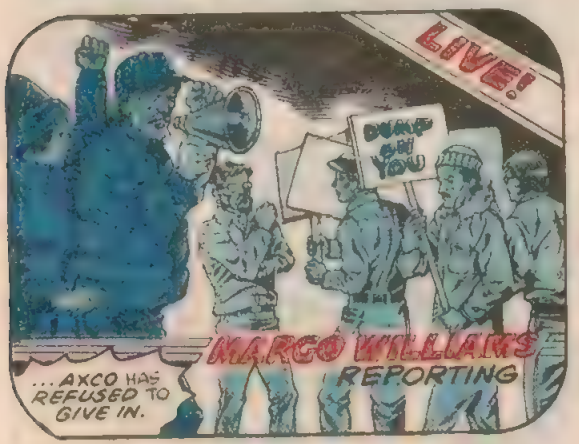
D-DWAYNE, DO YOU-YOU-YOU--
THEN...YOU SEE IT TOO?
THANK THE STARS!
NOW AT LEAST I KNOW WE'RE BOTH CRAZY!
BEHIND THE WHEEL--DID YOU SEE WHAT I SAW?
I DIDN'T SEE NOTHIN'!
AT LEAST NOTHIN' I'LL ADMIT TO!
WHOO-WEEEE!
KEN, YOU'RE JUST TOO MUCH!
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA TELL ME NEXT--BULLETS BOUNCE OFF YOU TOO?
WELL, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

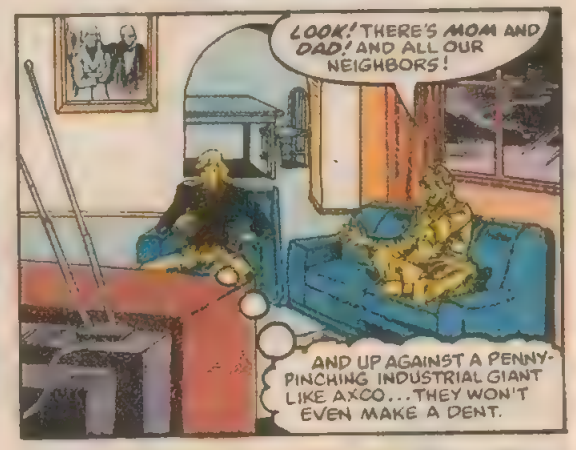

...AND ALTHOUGH AXCO'S CULPABILITY IN THE HIGH INCIDENCE OF LOCAL DEATHS AND ILLNESS HAS YET TO BE PROVEN IN COURT...
AXCO INDUSTRIES KEEP OUT TRESPASSERS WILL BE PROSECUTED
MARGO WILLIAMS REPORTING
THE TEN O'CLOCK NEWS


...NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS A PUBLIC OUTCRY FOR AXCO TO REMOVE THE HUNDREDS OF TOXIC WASTE CANISTERS THAT HAVE BEEN PILED FOR YEARS IN THEIR HUGE LANDFILL.
THE TEN O'CLOCK NEWS


FILE FILM
STUDIES HAVE SHOWN VERY INTENSE HEAT CAN REDUCE MOST TOXIC MATERIALS TO HARMLESS STEAM.
THAT'S WHY AXCO IS BEING PRESSURED TO JOIN THE OTHER LOCAL INDUSTRIES...


FILE FILM
...WHICH HAVE BEGUN SHIPPING THEIR TOXIC WASTES TO THE NEW INCINERATION PLANT OUTSIDE WHEELING.
BUT SO FAR, DESPITE LOCAL PROTESTS...


LIVE!
DUMP ON YOU
MARGO WILLIAMS REPORTING
...AXCO HAS REFUSED TO GIVE IN.


LOOK! THERE'S MOM AND DAD! AND ALL OUR NEIGHBORS!
AND UP AGAINST A PENNY-PINCHING INDUSTRIAL GIANT LIKE AXCO... THEY WON'T EVEN MAKE A DENT.

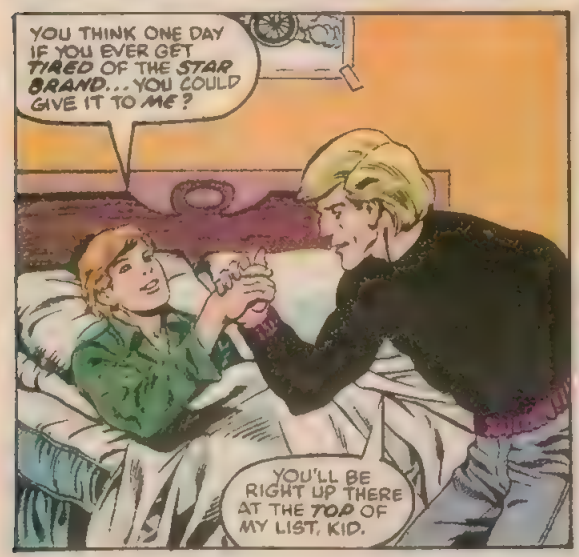
I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, KEN. WHY CAN'T AXCO JUST DO WHAT'S RIGHT?
A BIG CORPORATION THAT MAKES ALL THOSE MILLIONS... AND THEY WON'T SPEND THE MONEY TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT.

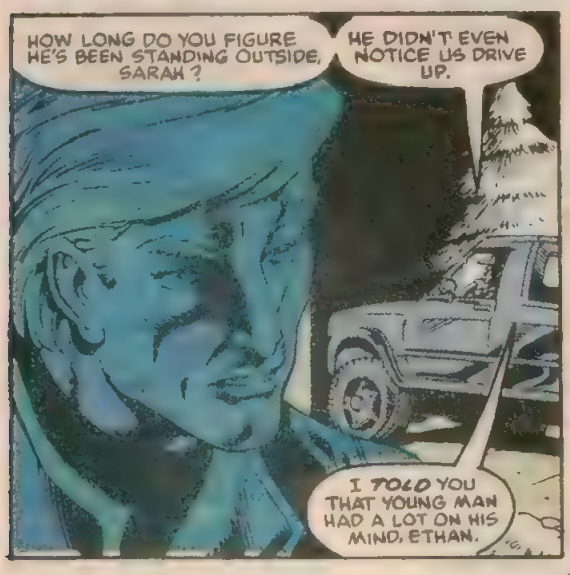
YOU COULD DO IT, KEN.
YOU COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE! MAKE THINGS RIGHT!
YOU AND YOUR STAR BRAND.
YOU HAVE THE POWER TO DO THINGS... JUST LIKE MY FAVORITE COMIC BOOK HEROES!
THEY USE THEIR STRANGE POWERS.
TO HELP PEOPLE LIKE US
TO GO AFTER BAD GUYS LIKE THOSE AXCO CREEPS!
I BET YOU COULD FLY OVER THERE AND-
LOOK AROUND, KID. THIS ISN'T A COMIC BOOK WE'RE LIVING IN.
THIS IS THE REAL WORLD-- WHERE YOU GET ARRESTED FOR TAKING THE LAW INTO YOUR OWN HANDS.
NOBODY CARES IF YOU'RE WEARING A MASK...! A CAPE...OR LEATHER TIGHTS!
EVEN IF I MANAGED TO GET AWAY... IF WHAT THE STAR BRAND CAN DO EVER BECOMES PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE--
I'LL BE LABELED A PUBLIC MENACE! I'LL BE HUNTED DOWN!
THE REST OF THE WORLD WILL CALL ME A FREAK!
IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT TO HAPPEN, KID?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE MY FRIEND.
I'M GOING TO BED NOW, KEN.
SEE YOU IN THE MORNING.
BONEHEAD--!
PROUD OF YOURSELF, CONNELL?

TAD, I DIDN'T MEAN THAT. I KNOW YOU'RE MY FRIEND.
IT'S OKAY, KEN.
I WAS SORT OF SPACING OUT THERE IN THE LIVING ROOM.

WITH ALL THAT HAPPENED TODAY, I GUESS I GOT FANTASY AND REALITY MORE THAN A LITTLE MIXED UP.

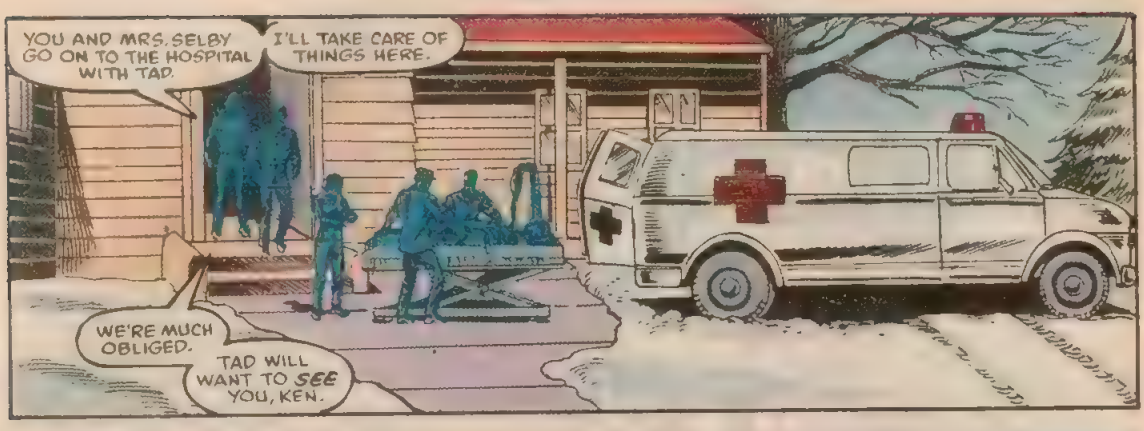
HAPPENS TO THE BEST OF US, KID.
YOU JUST WORK ON GETTING A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP.
ONE LAST THING, KEN?


YOU THINK ONE DAY IF YOU EVER GET TIRED OF THE STAR BRAND... YOU COULD GIVE IT TO ME?
YOU'LL BE RIGHT UP THERE AT THE TOP OF MY LIST, KID.


HOW LONG DO YOU FIGURE HE'S BEEN STANDING OUTSIDE, SARAH?
HE DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE US DRIVE UP.
I TOLD YOU THAT YOUNG MAN HAD A LOT ON HIS MIND, ETHAN.

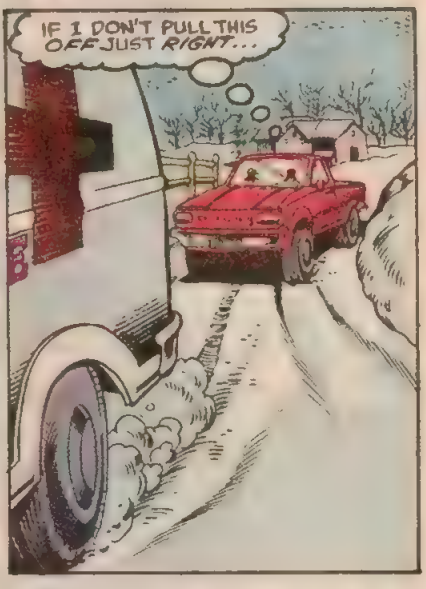
THE MRS. AND I NOTICED YOU DON'T TALK MUCH ABOUT YOURSELF, KEN. BUT IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU WANT TO TELL US--
--WE'RE WILLING TO LISTEN.
THANKS, MR. SELBY. YOU GO ON IN I'LL BE ALONG SOON.

"THE STAR BRAND IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE MOST SOUGHT-AFTER WEAPON IN THE UNIVERSE...
"...YET WHEN IT COMES TO THE SIMPLE TASK OF MENDING A 10 YEAR OLD KID'S DEFECTIVE HEART--
"--I'M POWERLESS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE! ABSOLUTELY POWER-LESS!"
"YEAH. SOME HERO I AM."
SUN'S UP.
BUT SOMETHING'S WRONG.
AMBULANCE IN THE DRIVEWAY.
OH ETHAN... WHAT IF...
DON'T DESPAIR, SARAH. HE'S HAD A SEIZURE... BUT HE'S HAD THEM BEFORE.
WE JUST HAVE TO BELIEVE HE'LL BOUNCE BACK THIS TIME TOO.
NOW THAT'S STRANGE...
NOT TO WORRY, ETHAN. IT'S JUST SOME SORT OF SYMBOL SCRAWLED ON TAD'S PALM.
HE MUST'VE USED A MARKER TO DRAW IT SOME TIME DURING THE NIGHT. KIDS.
WHAT ON EARTH WAS GOING THROUGH HIS MIND, I WONDER.


YOU AND MRS. SELBY GO ON TO THE HOSPITAL WITH TAD.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THINGS HERE.
WE'RE MUCH OBLIGED.
TAD WILL WANT TO SEE YOU, KEN.

IF...IF HE WAKES UP...
IF HE WAKES UP BEFORE I GET THERE, MR. SELBY... TELL HIM I'M ON MY WAY.

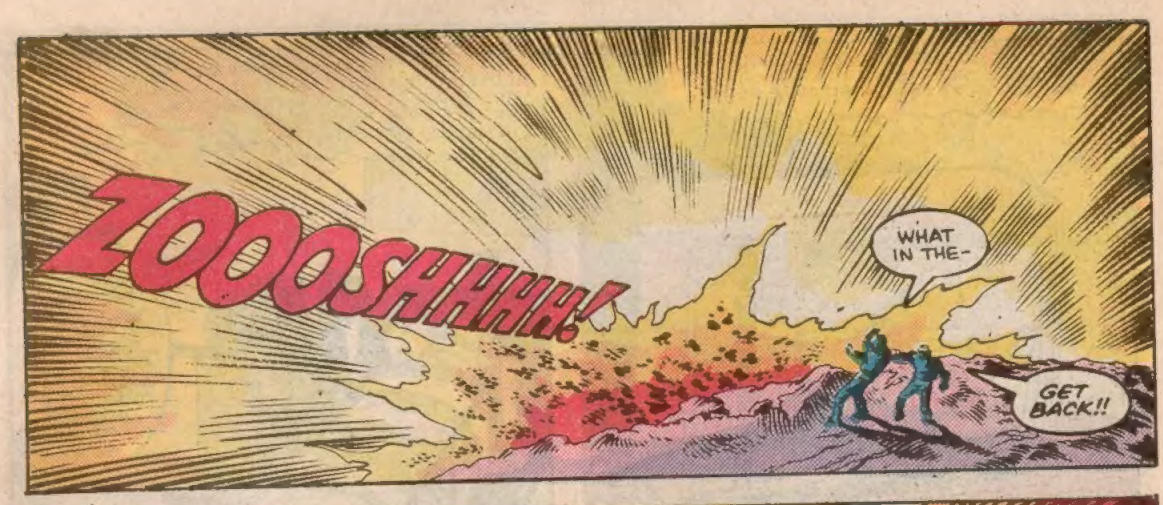
BUT FIRST...
I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO DO.
SOMETHING FOR TAD.


IF I DON'T PULL THIS OFF JUST RIGHT...

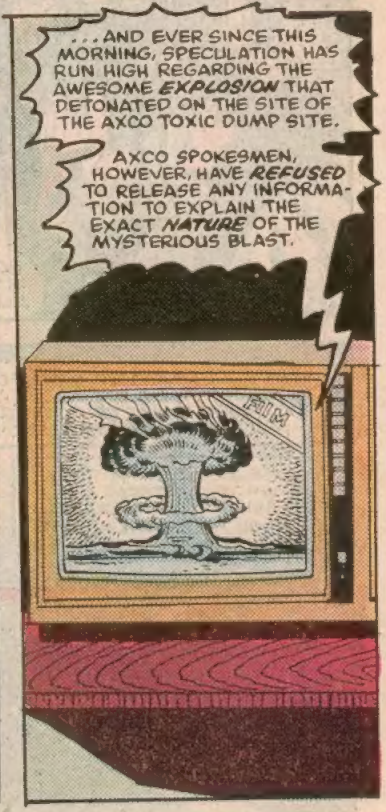
...ODDS ARE I'LL BE SEEN! AXCO'S SECURITY GUARDS WILL SURELY TRY TO ARREST ME.
I COULD BE BRANDED A PUBLIC MENACE
A FREAK.
HUNTED DOWN.

BUT I HAVE TO DO THIS. FOR TAD.
MAYBE I'M TRYING TO PROVE I'M WORTHY OF THE STAR BRAND.
BUT AM I TRYING TO PROVE IT TO HIM...
...OR MYSELF?

"YOU COULD DO IT KEN."
"YOU COULD MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE! MAKE THINGS RIGHT!"
YOU SEE THAT?
SEE WHAT?
A MAN!
I THOUGHT I SAW A FLYING MAN!
"YOU HAVE THE POWER TO PERFORM SUPER-FEATS...JUST LIKE MY FAVORITE COMIC BOOK HEROES."
THAT WAY--
I SAW HIM FLY INTO THE LANDFILL!
IF YOU SAY SO!
"YOU COULD DO IT, KEN."
"YOU AND THE STAR BRAND!"


ZOOOSHHHH!
WHAT IN THE-
GET BACK!!

BA-DOOOMM!


...AND EVER SINCE THIS MORNING, SPECULATION HAS RUN HIGH REGARDING THE AWESOME EXPLOSION THAT DETONATED ON THE SITE OF THE AXCO TOXIC DUMP SITE.
AXCO SPOKESMEN, HOWEVER, HAVE REFUSED TO RELEASE ANY INFORMATION TO EXPLAIN THE EXACT NATURE OF THE MYSTERIOUS BLAST.
FILM

BUT AS OUR WOAX CAMERAS CLEARLY REVEAL -- THERE IS NO MYSTERY ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF THE BIZARRE BLAST.
LIVE
ALL THE TOXIC WASTE CANISTERS WERE VAPORIZED -- INCINERATED BY THE EXPLOSION'S INESTIMABLE HEAT!
AS A RESULT, THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY HAS SAID IT WILL CONDUCT A FULL INVESTIGATION INTO ALL ASPECTS OF AXCO CHEMICAL'S OPERATION.
BY THE TIME THE FEDERAL WATCHDOGS GET THROUGH ...THEY'LL HAVE ENOUGH ON AXCO TO PUT THEM OUT OF BUSINESS PERMA-NENTLY.
YOU WERE RIGHT, KEN.
RIGHT AND WRONG IN REAL LIFE WILL NEVER BE AS SIMPLE AS IT IS IN MY COMIC BOOKS.
BUT THIS ONE TIME... WE DIDN'T DO TOO BAD, DID WE.
NOT TOO BAD AT ALL, KID.
YOU TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF. I'M GONNA DROP BY TO SEE YOU AGAIN SOON, MY FRIEND, COUNT ON IT.
SO LONG, HERO.
I'LL BE WATCHING THE SKIES FOR YOU.
WHATEVER GOD HAS IN STORE FOR TAD FROM HERE ON OUT... SARAH AND I ARE GRATEFUL HE LIVED LONG ENOUGH TO MAKE A FRIEND LIKE YOU.
BUT I'M CURI-OUS -- THAT BRAND SHAPED LIKE A STAR TAD DREW ON HIS PALM -- HE NEVER DID TELL US WHAT IT WAS FOR.
"LET'S JUST SAY THAT BRAND OF HIS TAUGHT ME A LOT ABOUT THE TRUE MEANING OF COURAGE AND COMPASSION, MR. SELBY."
"MAYBE I SHOULD BE THE ONE WHO'S GRATEFUL... FOR BEING LUCKY ENOUGH TO MAKE A FRIEND LIKE HIM."
"SO LONG, HERO. I'LL BE WATCHING THE SKIES FOR YOU..."

universe news

Greetings from the **New Universe**! Last month we introduced you to a few of the unsung super heroes of the comic book industry . . . the merry maniacs who make up our peerless production staff! Hope you really enjoyed last month's column, because here's more of the same . . .

ROBBIE CAROSELLA (Photostat Room Supervisor)

Was a Roman Emperor in a past life; Is known to be a close personal friend of Mr. Jack Daniels and Mr. Johnny Walker; Believes in equal rights for women, but has often collided with their lefts; Has won the office football pool so many times that he's in danger of drowning; Does one sit-up each year for exercise.

RICH DuFOUR (Paste-ups)

Went to school to study Broadcasting and Journalism, but works at Marvel to pay his bills; Sees this column as his big shot at super-stardom; His hobbies include mustache growing and coffee drinking; Likes to sniff paper when no one's looking; Has consumed so many preservatives that he believes he'll live forever.

KEN LOPEZ (Lettering Corrections)

Has been known to sharpen his pen with his tongue; Always color coordinates his socks with his underwear; Actually owns a tie, but has never worn it; His drawing board is covered with mirrored tiles so that he can watch himself while he works; Combs his hair for exercise; Exercises often.

PAT BROSSEAU (Lettering Corrections)

Was found on the doorstep of a monastery in the Swiss Alps, and raised by Monks who worshipped Wayne Newton; Lives on M&M chocolate candies, and is thrilled to hear that they're bringing back the red ones; Knows three hundred and forty-seven different ways to look busy without accomplishing anything; Can breathe through his nose while wiggling his ears.

MICHAEL MAIER (Paste-ups)

Born in Chicago, but can act like a native New Yorker if the need arises; Believes himself to be the backbone of the entire production department, but was out sick for three weeks, and no one noticed; Enjoys taking pictures of peeled fruit; Masquerades as a minor on weekends so that he can order from the children's menu at restaurants.

BARBARA JOHNSTON (Designer)

Former Russian ballerina who defected to America because she wanted to taste decent pizza; Drinks herb teas for her health, but spikes them with numerous junk food additives; Her hobbies include listening to Dawn Geiger laugh and arguing with abusive assistant editors; Wants *Marvel Age* to be canceled; Is really annoyed to be included in this column.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH
IF THEY WERE TO MAKE A MOVIE OF THE NEW UNIVERSE BOOK YOU DRAW, WHO WOULD YOU CAST AS THE TITLE CHARACTER(S)?

Justice ..... Christopher Walken
—Keith Giffen, JUSTICE penciler

Merc ..... Scott Glenn
—Gray Morrow, MERC penciler

Randy ..... Mark Harmon
Dave ..... John Matuszak
Stephanie .. Meredith Baxter-Birney
Jeff ..... Eddie Murphy
Charly ..... Janet Jackson
Scuzz ..... Michael J. Fox
Lenore ..... Katherine Hepburn
—Paul Ryan, D.P. 7 penciler

Spitfire ..... Karen Allen
—Herb Trimpe, SPITFIRE penciler

Jack Magniconte ..... Reb Brown
Bolck ..... Lou Gossett
Dasher ..... Billy Dee Williams
Doll ..... Pamela Rossi (a SOLID GOLD dancer)
Suicide ..... James Darren
—Ron Frenz, KICKERS penciler

Kenneth ..... Dolph Lundgren
—John Romita Jr., STAR BRAND penciler

Keith ..... Charlie Sheen
—Sandy Plunkett, NIGHTMASK cover penciler

Tyrone ..... J.J. Walker
Kathy ..... Rae Dawn Chong
Crawley ..... Peter Billingsly
Anastasia ..... Phoebe Cates
Wayne ..... Matt Dillon
—Mark Texeira, PSI-FORCE penciler

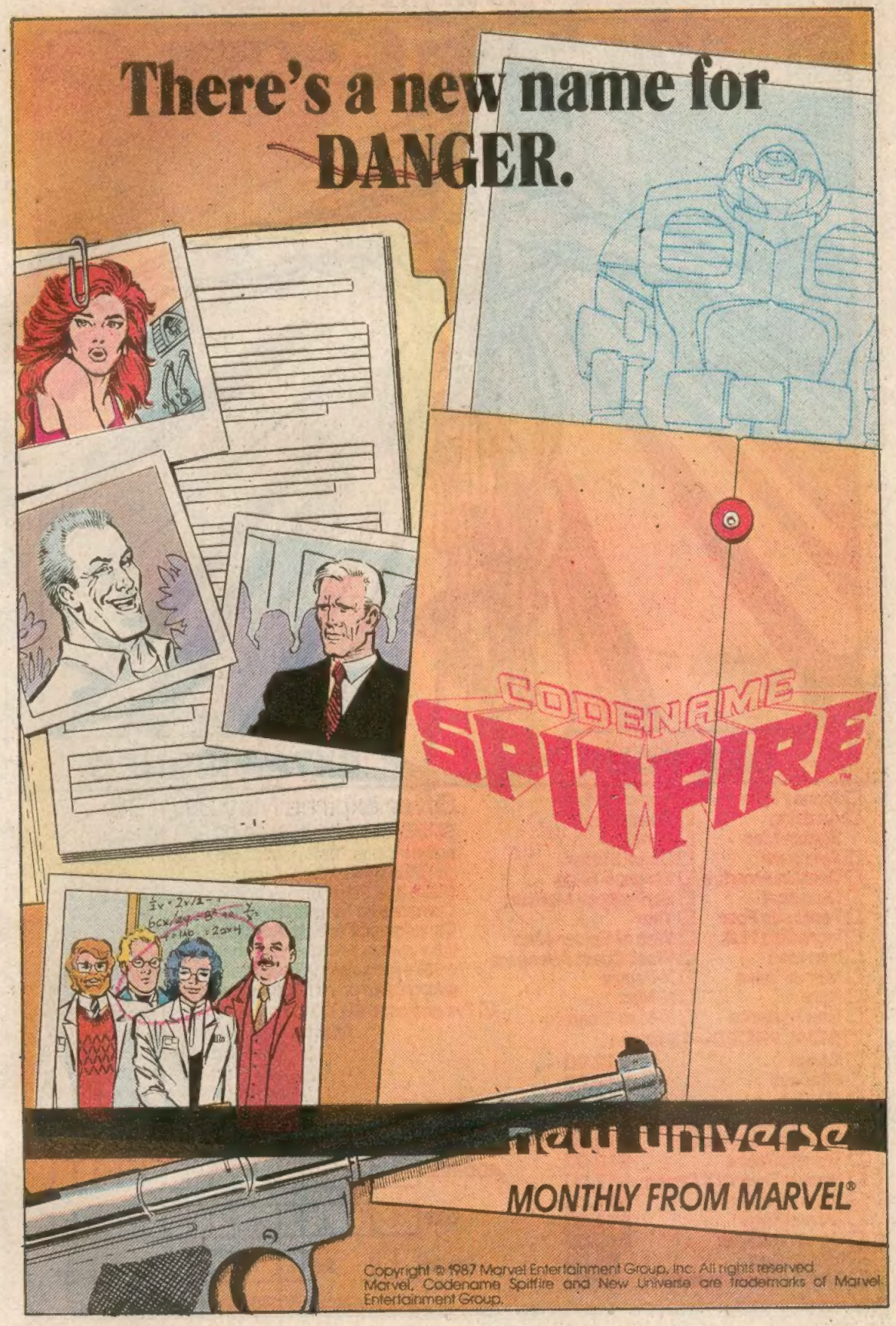
ITEM: Entries for our **New Universe** *Slogan Contest* are already flooding into the office. So why are you waiting? Where's yours?! This is a unique opportunity to go down in comic book history —to be remembered for as long as the four-color page doth endure—as the creator of the *Official Slogan of The* **New Universe**! Don't forget—the best slogans will appear here on the Universe News page, along with the name of the person who submitted it, and we may even award some nifty prizes to the Big Winner!! Don't delay, send your slogans today! Mail them all to:

New Universe Slogan
Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc.
387 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10016

new universe checklist

NEW UNIVERSE

- ☐ **NIGHT MASK #9**—For the first time, enter the dreams of Night Mask himself!
- ☐ **PSI FORCE #9**—An innocent boy is dead! Is a member of the Psi Force team responsible!
- ☐ **KICKERS, INC. #9**—The New York Smashers are being sold to the West Coast unless Jack can stop it!
- ☐ **MERC #9**—There's a new Mercenary in town. Meet him this issue, if you dare!
- ☐ **D.P. 7 #9**—Introducing a new group of Paranormals! And they're not what you might expect!
- ☐ **JUSTICE #9**—Justice has been stripped of his power, but he's not helpless! The question is, will he survive in one piece?
- ☐ **CODENAME: SPITFIRE #10**—A new title, a new direction, and all-new thrills!
- ☐ **STAR BRAND #8**—To grant a dying boy his last request, Kenneth Connell must reveal the secret of the Star Brand!


There's a new name for DANGER.
CODENAME SPITFIRE
new universe
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